

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the indicated paragraphs 0013, 0017, 0026, 0062 and 0067 with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] ~~Figure 3A and Figure 3B, 3B, 3C and 3C~~ show embodiments of a stent according to the present invention.

[0017] ~~Figures 7A and 7B, 7B, 7C and 7D~~ show ~~[[a]]~~ stent cross sections configured in a layer structure.

[0026] Figures 3A and 3B show two embodiments of stents according to the present invention, both having a single helical configuration. Figure 3A shows a stent with a ribbon-like configuration, while the stent in Figure 3B has a wire-like configuration. In addition to single helices, double- (Figure 3C, helices 30c and 30d), triple- (Figure 3D, helices 30e, 30f and 30g) and multiple-helix configurations are also possible. The stents according to the present invention can be manufactured by, for example, laser cutting, casting or extruding and can also be manufactured in multiple sub-section pieces.

[0062] Within certain aspects, therapeutic coatings may be fashioned in any thickness ranging from about 50 nm to about 3 mm, depending upon the particular use. Alternatively, such compositions may also be readily applied as a "spray", which solidifies into a film or coating. Such sprays may be prepared from microspheres of a wide array of sizes, including for example, from 0.1 μm to 3 μm , from 10 μm to 30 μm , and from 30 μm to 100 μm . An exemplary layered stent coating comprising microspheres is depicted in Figure 7D.

[0067] Protection of the therapeutic coating also can be utilized by coating the surface with an inert molecule that prevents access to the active site through steric hindrance, or by coating the surface with an inactive form of the biologically active substance, which is later activated. For example, the coating further can be coated readily with an enzyme, which causes either release of the therapeutic agent or agents or activates the therapeutic agent or agents. Indeed, alternating layers of the therapeutic coating 44 with a protective coating 50 may enhance the time-release properties of the coating overall (Figure 7C).